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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/809,588	03/25/2004	Susann Marie Keohane	AUS920040028US1	7130
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IBM CORP (YA)				
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EXAMINER				
LOFTIS, JOENNA RONEE				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3623				
NOTIFICATION DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
06/16/2008		ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

ptonotifs@yeciipaw.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/809,588

Applicant(s)

KEOHANE ET AL.

Examiner

JOHNNA R. LOFTIS

Art Unit

3623

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 May 2008.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 7 and 15 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 7 and 15 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 25 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-8508)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3/25/04
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. The following is a first office action upon examination of application number 10/809,588. Claims 2-6, 8-14 and 16-24 cancelled in preliminary amendment dated 5/28/08. Claims 1, 7 and 15 are pending and have been examined on the merits discussed below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1, 7 and 15 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dailey et al, US 6,363,352, and further in view of Walther et al, US 2003/0217073.

As per claim 1, Dailey et al teaches initializing a calendar system (column 7, line 63 – column 8, line 12 – personal information manager stores and organizes appointments, names, etc., used for coordinating meetings); generating an invitation list (column 5, lines 5-15 – each meeting participant is sent an email message to participate in the meeting); sending an invitation to a first scheduled event having a scheduled event time to a plurality of users in the invitation list (column 5, lines 5-15 – each meeting participant is sent an email message to participate in the meeting); receiving a plurality of acceptance messages associated with the first scheduled event having the scheduled event time, each of the plurality of acceptance messages associated with a respective user of the plurality of users (column 8, lines 1-12 – acceptance or refusal of a meeting invitation is generated). In addition to above, Dailey et al teaches considering

availability of participants (column 11, lines 41-62) and entering meeting invitations into a calendar (column 14, lines 1-8) but does not explicitly teach identifying a schedule conflict of a user associated with an acceptance message of the plurality of acceptance messages, wherein identifying the schedule conflict comprises; accessing a schedule store of a data processing system that generated the acceptance message; responsive to identifying the schedule conflict, calculating a probably attendance from the plurality of acceptance messages; displaying each of the users and the respective probability value in a user interface; forming a meeting status value from the calculated probable attendance from the plurality of acceptance messages; and conveying the meeting status value to at least one user associated with one of the plurality of acceptance messages. Walther et al teaches considering attendee availability (pp0049) wherein criteria are analyzed to determine a meeting that appropriately satisfies the criteria. During the evaluation of predetermined criteria, the system calculates a probability of the number of meeting attendants who will be available to attend the meeting a specific time and location (pp0052). This percentage is output to the user wherein the user can view the probability using the user interface (fig 2 – output device; see also 0043-0052). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the meeting system of Dailey et al with the probability calculation of Walther et al as a way to more accurately view attendance rates for purposes of scheduling meetings at appropriate times. This would ensure higher attendance rates.

As per claims 7 and 15, they are the computer program in a computer readable medium and system, respectively, for performing the method of claim 1 and are therefore rejected using the same art and rationale set forth above.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Heck, Mike – Organizer upgrade adds collaborative features – InfoWorld v19n28 - July 14, 1997

Capek et al, US 2003/0204474 – event scheduling with optimization

Capek et al, US 7,343,312 – event scheduling with optimization

Conmy et al, US 6,101,480 – electronic calendar with group scheduling and automated scheduling

Conmy et al, US 7,082,402 – electronic calendar with group scheduling and storage of user and resource profile

Cragun et al, US 2003/0149605 – method and meeting scheduler for automated meeting scheduling using delegates, representatives, quorums and teams

McGaughey, III et al, US 4,977,520 – method to facilitate a reply to electronic meeting invitation is an interactive multi-terminal system employing electronic calendars

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JOHNNA R. LOFTIS whose telephone number is (571)272-6736. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8am-4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Beth Van Doren can be reached on 571-272-6737. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/jl/
6/7/08
/Jonathan G. Sterrett/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3623